

CLAIM SET AS AMENDED

1. (Previously Presented) A locking means on an over-centre fastener for preventing unintentional opening of the fastener, comprising:

manually releasable snap-action retaining means between a movable lever and a stationary part of the fastener,

said retaining means comprising:

abutment means associated with the stationary part and an elongate leaf spring attached at a first end thereof to the lever,

a second end of said leaf spring being movable relative to the lever and forming engagement means adapted to engage the abutment means in a closed position of the fastener,

said second end of the leaf spring being formed with guide means guiding movement of said opposite end of the spring relative to the lever.

2. (Previously Presented) The locking means according to claim 1, wherein said guide means comprises at least one portion of said leaf spring bent to encompass a portion of the lever.

3-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) The locking means according to claim 1, wherein the elongate leaf spring has a main plane extending in a normal, unstrained state along the inner side of a leg of the lever.

7. (Previously Presented) The locking means according to claim 6, wherein the elongate leaf spring is formed with a hole at one end of the main plane, and another hole formed at a predetermined distance therefrom.

8. (New) The locking means according to claim 1, wherein said guide means comprise a portion of said second end bent to exteriorly encompass a portion of the lever with a first and a second portion thereof being in sliding relation to a respective opposite surface of said portion of the lever.

9. (New) The locking means according to claim 8, wherein said portion of said second end further includes a third and a fourth mutually opposite portion limiting movement of said leaf spring by abutment with respective opposed surfaces of said lever.